of North East. However, the Annual Plan of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has been finalised by the Planning Commission after taking into account the overall resource availability of the State. Central Assistance of Rs. 1521.08 crores has been allocated for the Annual Plan of Himachal Pradesh including Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 200 crores and Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 115 crores.

Rate of Interest on Small Saving Schemes

2325. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce rates on small savings schemes including national savings certificates, post office schemes and RBI bonds as well as eliminating the various tax exemptions that these schemes currently enjoy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to stop transferable certificate like Kisan Vikas Patra as it had become storehouses for large chunks of unaccounted black money;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No proposal of either revision of interest rates or reduction of tax benefits on various small savings schemes and Relief bonds of the Reserve Bank of India is under the consideration of Government, at present. However Reddy Committee's recommendations on interest rates and tax treatment of small savings schemes will provide an input to Government's approach on the subject.

(c) to (e) No proposal of discontinuance of Kisan Vikas Patra Scheme is under the consideration of Government, at present.

Special International Investment Fund

† 2326. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.